

REMARKS

Favorable reconsideration of this application in view of the foregoing amendments and the following remarks is respectfully requested. Following the above amendments, claims 1-3 and 5-14 are pending and submitted for reconsideration.

The objections to the Drawings and to the Specification have been fully obviated by the amendments previously set forth. Reconsideration and withdrawal of the objections is respectfully requested.

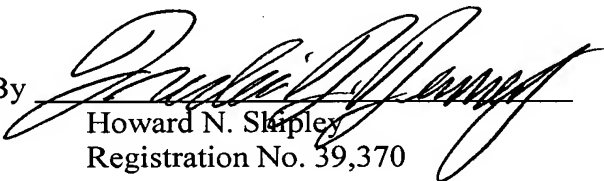
During the teleconference on December 2, 2004, the Examiner indicated that all of the foreign references submitted with the Information Disclosure Statements filed on August 1, 2003, March 4, 2004, and April 2, 2004 are now available to the Examiner and will be considered. No further action is required on the part of the Applicants.

The indication of allowable subject matter in claims 4 and 12-14 is noted with appreciation. Claim 1 has been amended to recite the limitations of claim 4. In addition, claims 12 and 14 have been amended to be in independent claim format. In light of these amendments claims 1-3 and 5-14 are in condition for allowance.

A Notice of Allowance at an early date is respectfully requested. The Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned if such communication would expedite the prosecution of the application.

Respectfully submitted,

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Customer Number: 22428
FOLEY & LARDNER LLP
3000 K Street, N.W.
Suite 500
Washington, DC 20007
Telephone: (202) 672-5300
Facsimile: (202) 672-5399

By 
Howard N. Skipley
Registration No. 39,370

Frederic T. Tenney
Registration No. 47,131

Attorneys for Applicants

THE COMMISSIONER IS HEREBY AUTHORIZED TO CHARGE ANY ADDITIONAL FEES WHICH MAY BE REQUIRED REGARDING THIS APPLICATION UNDER 37 C.F.R. §§ 1.16-1.17, OR CREDIT ANY OVERPAYMENT, TO DEPOSIT ACCOUNT NO. 19-0741. SHOULD NO PROPER PAYMENT BE ENCLOSED HERewith, AS BY A CHECK BEING IN THE WRONG AMOUNT, UNSIGNED, POST-DATED, OTHERWISE IMPROPER OR INFORMAL OR EVEN ENTIRELY MISSING, THE COMMISSIONER IS AUTHORIZED TO CHARGE THE UNPAID AMOUNT TO DEPOSIT ACCOUNT NO. 19-0741. IF ANY EXTENSIONS OF TIME ARE NEEDED FOR TIMELY ACCEPTANCE OF PAPERS SUBMITTED HERewith, APPLICANT HEREBY PETITIONS FOR SUCH EXTENSION UNDER 37 C.F.R. § 1.136 AND AUTHORIZES PAYMENT OF ANY SUCH EXTENSIONS FEES TO DEPOSIT ACCOUNT NO. 19-0741.

AMENDMENTS TO THE DRAWINGS

Figure 2 has been amended to include labels “2A” and “2B.” The front perspective view is labeled “Fig. 2A” and the rear perspective view is labeled “Fig. 2B.”